



The Arapaho and Roosevelt NF's and Pawnee National Grassland

Volume 5, Issue 1, Spring 2007

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A Message from the Forest Supervisor

Welcome to the spring edition of the *Forests to Grassland* newsletter. I am very excited and honored to be the new Forest Supervisor on the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland (ARP). As many of you may recall from the last issue, I arrived here and began work last December. Since that time I have been able to meet with several of you and I look forward to working with more of you as issues, interests and partnerships bring us together. I have spent the last several months getting to know the

ARP and I have been very impressed with the dedicated and talented employees we have. Page 7 highlights the seven employees who were recently honored for their skills and leadership not just on the ARP but in the Rocky Mountain Region.

Since my arrival I have been working to understand the challenges the ARP faces. One of those challenges is the large Mountain Pine Beetle infestation that we have been experiencing. We are putting a lot of effort towards this epidemic to ensure that we reduce hazardous fuels as we create condi-

tions for a healthier forest to exist in the future. We have added a new section to highlight our Beetle work on page 2.

As we head into summer I hope you have the opportunity to enjoy the ARP and all it has to offer. Page 5 provides a few tips to keep yourself fire safe during your visit. See you out there.

Glenn P. Casamassa
Forest Supervisor

Editor, *Forests to Grassland*

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The Mountain Pine Beetle Corner—NEW section

What is Mountain Pine Beetle?

The Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) is a very small insect. It is only the size of a grain of rice, but in the right conditions and numbers can kill acres of trees. The beetles tunnel under the tree bark and spread the blue stain fungus they carry on their body and legs. Sometimes a tree can “pitch” the beetle out using its resin. If they can’t, this fungus spreads and blocks the transport of water and nutrients in the tree. While under the bark the beetles lay their eggs. These eggs hatch and continue to eat the inner bark of the tree. In July and August new beetles emerge as adults and attack and kill more trees. Each infested tree hosts enough beetles to infest three to five new trees when they emerge.

MPB has always been present in the forest in small numbers. The current outbreak was triggered when the multi-year drought weakened trees. Often the beetles would only cause periodic mortality of single or small groups of trees and would be kept in check through cold winter temperatures and predators such as birds, small mammals and other insects. Although, large scale epidemics are not abnormal on the timescale of a dynamic forested environment.

Commercial timber sales and tree harvest are used to address MPB infestations, as well as treating individual high value trees with insecticide.

MPB infestations are just one of nature’s responses to the drought, small epidemics have occurred every 10 to 30 years; however, MPB infestations of this magnitude have not occurred in the recorded history of the ARP. There are two major factors that have contributed to the scale of the current epidemic in lodgepole pine. First

lodgepole pine forests are getting older. New lodgepole pine forests are usually produced by a forest-replacing event such as wildfire or an insect epidemic. Second the multi-year drought has dehydrated the trees and made it more difficult for trees to defend themselves by “pitching” the beetle out using its resin flow.

Once the epidemic is completed, a forest will still remain, however the forest will be different. As you continue to read the rest of the articles in the MPB corner you will learn about the continuous efforts the ARP is making to address this infestation. If you have MPB on your land you should work with your local fire department or the Colorado State Forest Service to address the spread of the beetle and the increased fire danger dead trees can bring.

The Latest From the Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative

On May 18, the Colorado Bark Beetle Cooperative met with stakeholders from ten counties to create a forum to address sustainable forests and communities. They focused on topics directly related to the bark beetle epidemic, wildfire and hazardous fuels

management to set operating principles for the ten county forum, as well as short-term goals and a long-term vision.

For more information e-mail Mary Ann Chambers, Public Affairs Specialist for the Bark Beetle Cooperative at machambers@fs.fed.us.

Vision of Forests to Grassland Newsletter

“Our vision is to utilize this newsletter to create a channel for improving an ongoing dialog between the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forest and Pawnee National Grassland and stakeholders. We hope that it will provide new opportunities for the public to participate with processes, projects and partnerships throughout the Forests and Grassland.”



Article Contributions

We would like article contributions for the various sections of this tri-annual newsletter. The next deadline is **July 16, 2007**. When submitting articles or photos, please provide your name, affiliation (if any), phone number and/or e-mail. Send the article, topic or photo via e-mail or hard copy. Articles should be no longer than 500 words and should identify the topic area the article is geared toward. Please note that there are additional guidelines for the Points Of View Section. You can find those on page 10.

Submissions can be sent to:
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The Beetle Battle Continues on Sulphur Ranger District

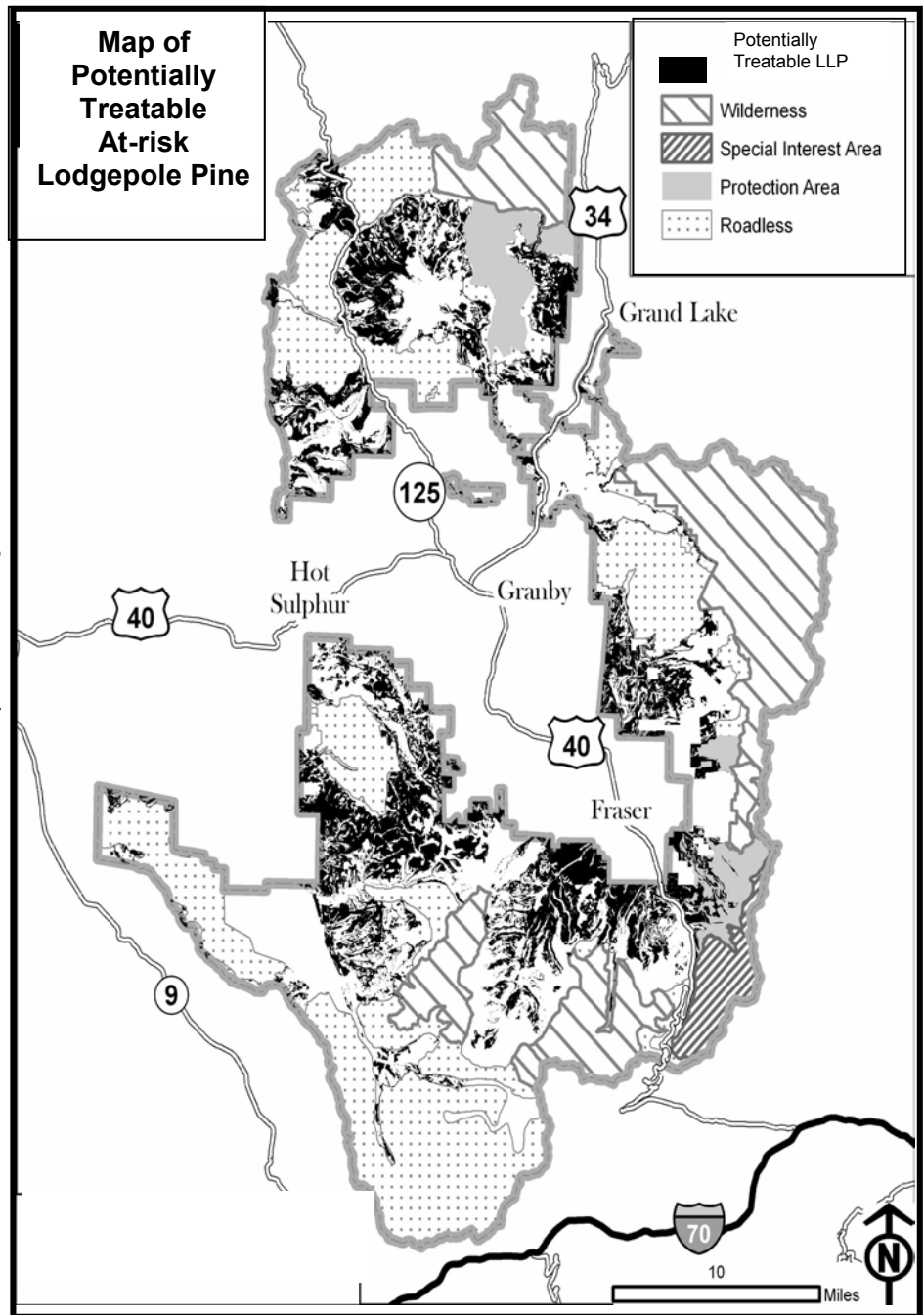
The Sulphur Ranger District (SRD) has actively been addressing the Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) outbreak since 2001 with the goal of reducing the impacts of potential wildfire to communities and watersheds. Their focus has been large landscape scale treatments to remove dead trees. SRD has also worked to respond to public safety concerns, increase safety for firefighters, keep recreation opportunities open and available to the public while increasing the diversity of the next forest.

In 2001, they consulted with entomologists, vegetation management specialists and multiple other agencies and prioritized their initial attack on MPB to target the Arapaho National Recreation Area (ANRA) and the Williams Fork Valley. Attacking the MPB can be very challenging. In many cases only certain stands can be harvested due to slope, congressional designation, roadless areas, wetlands, Forest Plan restrictions, access and road problems, and wildlife habitat needs. There are 408,000 acres of National Forest System land on the SRD. Lodgepole pine that is at-risk for MPB occupies 183,000 of these acres and only 73,000 acres are potentially treatable acres (see map at right). By 2008, 85 percent of these acres will have been examined for treatment, and 25 percent will have been proposed for treatment. To date decisions to treat 11,000 acres have been completed, with 7,500 under contract and 3,500 already treated.

SRD continues to treat the beetles with five new projects in the planning stages. In addition to tree harvesting, they annually spray 10,000 trees in high value recreation areas, as well as conduct timber sales in develop recreation sites to remove hazard trees, while trying to keep these areas as open and usable for visitors as possible.

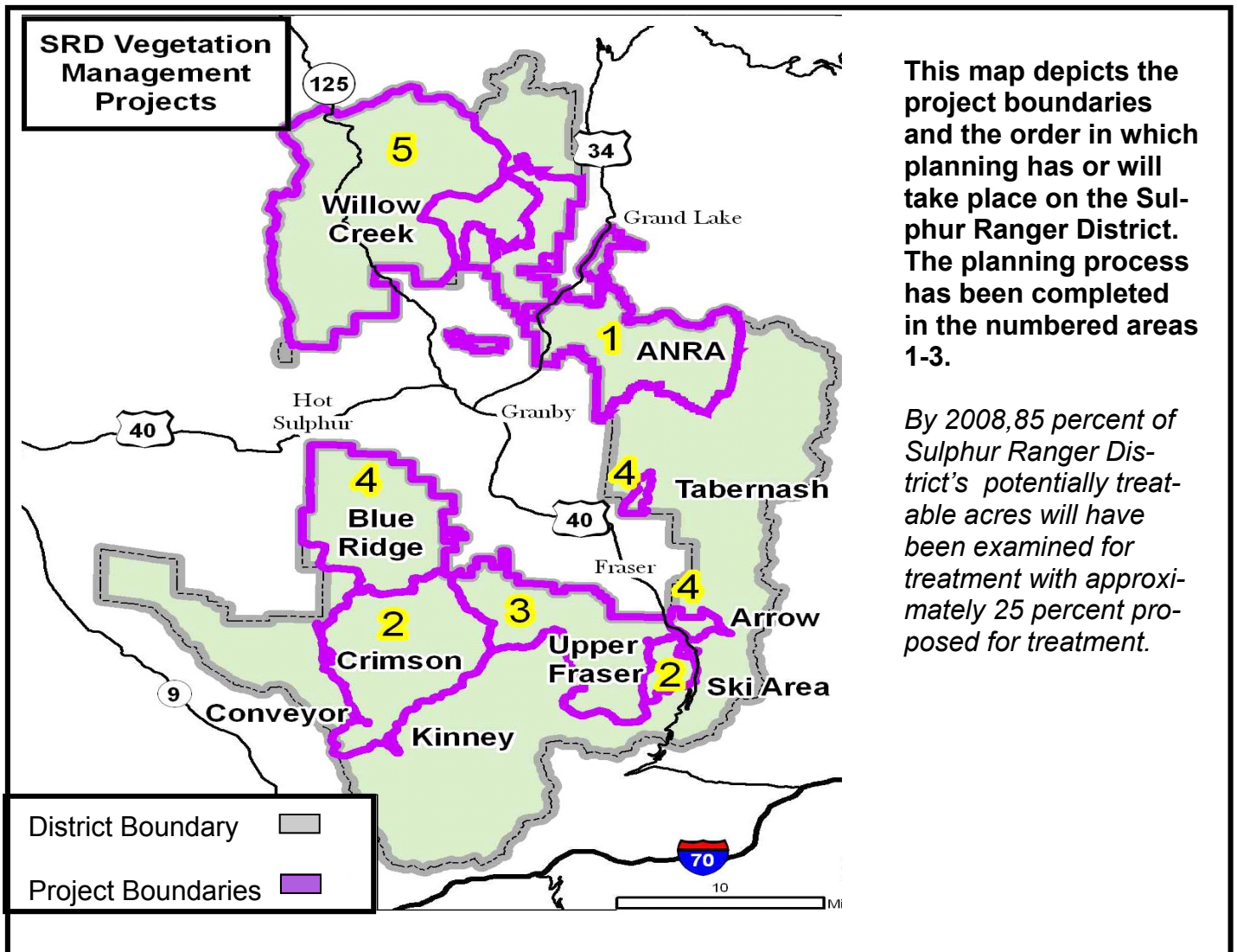
Partnerships have been key to this effort, both from helping them set priorities to preparing for wildfire, as well as working to address the hazardous trees on roadsides, trails and utility corridors.

This year's focus is in the Blue Ridge, Tabernash, Arrow, Kinney Creek and Conveyor Belt areas. In these areas SRD plans to modify fuel build up to reduce wildfire potential; salvage dead and dying timber before it loses marketable value; and maintain, restore or improve habitat and watershed. In 2008, SRD will work in the Willow Creek area using the same strategy. Contracts for treatment have been



awarded in the Williams Fork area, Upper Fraser and the ANRA.

SRD is committed to continue working closely with communities to prioritize which areas to treat. They will continue to use the timber sale tool to accomplish large acreages, as well as engage in multiple efforts with partners that use a variety of tools. They are committed to continue to work as hard and fast as they can to meet their goal of reducing the impacts of potential wildfire to communities and watersheds as this outbreak continues.



MPB In the South Zone

The South Zone Vegetation Team (South Zone) who provides vegetation management on the Boulder (BRD) and Clear Creek Ranger Districts (CCRD), is working on several projects in response to Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) movement east of the divide. MPB are beginning to cross the Continental Divide at Tennessee Mountain between the town of Nederland and Eldora Mountain Resort in the Boulder Ranger District. This is the first large scale outbreak on BRD.

South Zone has started working with Eldora Ski Area on a MPB mitigation project within and adjacent to the ski area. If approved the ski area will be spraying some of their high value areas, near lifts, buildings and in high wind areas trying to keep the trees alive. They will also be , trying to reduce the spread by cutting and processing currently infested trees as well as completing work on private lands at the base area.

South Zone will be spraying and felling trees in an effort

to preserve screening around campsites and to remove trees in danger of blowing down or falling on campers. They hope to treat all developed recreation sites as funding allows during the next several years. The South Zone will continue their spraying efforts in developed sites near Berthoud Falls on the Clear Creek District. They will also be spraying and removing trees in developed sites at West Chicago Creek on the CCRD and at Kelly Dahl and Olive Ridge Campgrounds on the Boulder District.

South Zone will also begin the planning process for the Lump Gulch Fuel Reduction Project this summer. The project will focus on reducing hazardous fuels with the added benefit of improving forest health and reducing the potential for MPB spread. Lump Gulch is just south and west of Nederland and close to the most extensive outbreak on the BRD.

MPB on Canyon Lakes Ranger District

Since 2005, there has been a dramatic increase in the Mountain Pine Beetle populations in western Larimer County, affecting primarily lodgepole pine and Engelmann spruce. Approximately 340,000 acres in Larimer County including 280,000 acres on the Canyon Lakes Ranger District (CLRD), are at risk if the current MPB epidemic moves from the western slope to the eastern slope of Colorado.

In 2007, the CLRD will implement a strategy to suppress current populations and apply preventative insecticide spraying to susceptible trees in high value campgrounds in the Laramie River and Long Draw areas.

CLRD plans to treat about 300 currently infested trees and apply preventative spray to 2,200 trees within five campgrounds and one administrative site in the Laramie River and Long Draw areas.

Hot Topics

Preparing for the Upcoming Fire Season

It's that time of year when everyone starts to ask what we expect for the upcoming fire season. This is a very difficult question to answer, because so many things can change between now and fire season and throughout the summer months. Will the summer be hot, windy and dry, rainy and green; or somewhere in between? Currently the Rocky Mountain Area Predictive Services are collecting information to develop this fire season's outlook. This information is posted on the web at www.blm.gov/colorado/rmafwx/index.html.

No matter what the prediction for the upcoming season, the ARP is very busy this time of year ensuring their firefighting resources are ready for the upcoming fire season. All firefighters on the ARP annually attend an eight hour fire refresher. This refresher focuses on safety and lessons learned from previous fire seasons. It includes driving safety, hands on— sandbox type exercises and timed fire shelter practice. Additionally, field qualified firefighters take the "pack test," which is a physical fitness test to make sure they are not only mentally ready for the upcoming season but physically prepared for the demands it brings.

Firefighting equipment is also tested and inspected to make sure it is ready for the season.

The ARP will have the following firefighting crews and equipment this season:

- Eight staffed engines- two in Red Feather Lakes, two in Fort Collins, two in Nederland, one in Granby and one in Idaho Springs
- Two Initial Attack five-person crews—one in Fort Collins and one in Nederland
- Prevention staff in Fort Collins, Boulder and Idaho Springs
- 20-person Americorp Crew in Boulder
- Roosevelt Hotshots in Fort Collins
- Fort Collins Interagency Dispatch and Aviation Center
- Jeffco Tanker Base

Firefighting leadership has also been working to as-

sure agreements and contracts are updated, as well as participating in regional dispatcher, incident management team and fire management officers meetings to make sure we are up-to-date on the latest procedures, policies and safety information.

Everyone can help the firefighting effort by always being careful with fire of any type on the ARP and other natural areas. Remember, what you do to prepare yourself and your property will have more impact than any firefighter response. See the box below for more specific ways you can make a difference.

Steps You Can Take To Prevent Wildfires From Occurring

- Be careful with slash burning. Make sure you follow your local regulations.
- Have a shovel and water nearby.
- Never burn when it's windy.
- Do not park your vehicle in tall dry grass.
- If you have a campfire, make sure it is completely out.
- Homeowners should create defensible space around their property to protect it from wildfire (*for more information about creating defensible space, visit www.firewise.org or contact your local fire department or Colorado State Forest Service district office*).

Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership

The Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership (FRFTP) website has a new look. Make sure you check out the newest graphics, more accessible and usable information, and the latest on FRFTP action at www.frftp.org.

The implementer's meeting in February was a huge success. Attendees were very pleased with the ground-oriented information presented on Community Wildfire Protection Plans, website orientation, research on mixed-conifer stand attributes and wood mastification, and prescribed fire smoke management. Presenters also provided updates on the Partnership budget, status and types of grants relevant to the Partnership, and stewardship contracts. The FRFTP Leadership Team ended the meeting with a questions and answer session.

Another important outcome of the meeting was the introduction of this year's FRFTP tours. On May 8, the Colorado State Forest Service, Boulder District and the Boulder Ranger District of the Roosevelt National Forest presented a tour focusing on treatment projects in the Sugar Loaf area near Boulder.

On May 15, the Colorado State Forest Service, Denver Water and the South Platte District of the Pike National Forest will present a tour of the Upper South Platte Project area. These tours are open to agency personnel and the public. For more information about the tours, please visit "What's New" on the FRFTP homepage.

The FRFTP Roundtable is celebrating the release of its first annual report on May 25. It has been an intriguing and productive year for the Roundtable. The intrigue was generated by the attendance and commitment demonstrated at the Roundtable meeting in January. Not only did stakeholders involved in previous Roundtable efforts commit to future actions of the Roundtable, but the meeting generated the potential for new partners such as Colorado's insurance industry. Progress this year will be detailed in the annual report, and includes the Roundtable's involvement in generating legislative and community action that will aid future Partnership efforts. The annual report will be available at www.frftp.org or in hard copy from any Partnership Roundtable member after May 25.



The primary goal of the Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership (FRFTP) is to enhance community sustainability and restore fire-adapted ecosystems through identification, prioritization and rapid implementation of hazardous fuels treatment along the Front Range of Colorado.

The Colorado State Legislature is currently working on legislation important to future Partnership and Roundtable activities. House Bill 07-1168 (HB07-1168) will provide for the creation of forest improvement districts. House Bill 07-1130 (HB07-1130) is a pilot program that provides incentives for forest restoration projects on state and private lands. And, Senate Joint Resolution – 006 (SRJ -006) addresses stewardship contracting related to forest health. If you would like more detail on the legislation visit, www.colorado.gov.

Dowdy Lake Day-Use Area and Campground Now Open!



Above: New campsite at Dowdy Lake

The newly reconstructed Dowdy Lake recreation area opened to campers, anglers and picnickers last fall. Recreationists found many improvements. Construction crews built new restrooms, replaced and added picnic tables and fire grates, expanded old

parking lots and created new ones, and improved trails to be accessible. They enlarged many campsites—to accommodate larger RVs and added a new campground loop. People arriving just after the area reopened found some of the best fishing in years.

This will be the first year for day-use fees at Dowdy. The Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland (ARP) made a decision to keep the day-use area free throughout the winter and early spring as a way of saying "thank you" to folks who were unable to ac-

cess the lake during construction. As the busy season approaches, we are preparing to implement the required day-use fees, beginning May 18, 2007. These fees will help offset the costs of maintaining this new and improved facility, and keep it in excellent shape for the long term. The fee will be \$4 per day per vehicle.

Regular users of the day-use area will be able to reduce their costs in several ways. They may purchase a \$25 Thousand Trails Annual Pass from the campground hosts – good for all the ARP's day-use areas that charge a fee. People 62 and older may purchase a lifetime \$10 Interagency Senior Pass. Not only will this give them entrance to the day-use area, but it will also provide a discount at U.S. Forest Service and other federal campgrounds nationwide. In addition, it provides free access into all National Parks. People with permanent disabilities may qualify for the free Interagency Access Pass with proof of disability—giving them the same discounts as the Senior Pass. Finally, anyone who has purchased an \$80 Interagency Annual Pass will have free day access to Dowdy Lake and other ARP day-use areas. Interagency passes are now available at all district offices.

Forest Service Highlights

ARP Receives Regional Awards

On December 14, 2006, Robin Winston, Mike Foley, Kim Obele, Beth Humphrey, Randy Reichert, Kristy Wumkes and Todd Hess, employees of the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland, were honored for their extraordinary service by Regional Forester Rick Cables.

The presentation of the Rocky Mountain Regional Forester Honor Awards is an annual ceremony attended by all of the forest supervisors and district rangers in South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado and Nebraska, to honor those who have contributed to the Forest Service mission and have gone the extra mile to care for the land and serve people.

Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests Supervisor's Office Administrative Officer Robin Winston won the award for *Business Administrative Service* and was honored for her professionalism, people orientation, cus-

tommer attitude, service and support, and contribution to the mission of the agency.

Front Range Fuel Treatment Partnership Coordinator Mike Foley received the *Staff Support Award* for his sustained service to the Region's programs, his major contribution to the organization's success, and recognized for his performance in support of a line officer.

Canyon Lakes Ranger District Volunteer Program Coordinator Kristy Wumkes, won the *Volunteer Leadership Award* for her initiative and significant contribution to resource and service improvements through collaboration with volunteers.

Clear Creek Ranger District Information Assistant Todd Hess won the *Safety Award* for his outstanding contributions to the advancement and promotion of safety and occupational health including safety leadership, education and training, accident pre-

vention and investigation, inspections and audits, enhanced employee protection and safety program management, and/or innovative initiatives.

Pawnee National Grassland employees Kim Obele, Beth Humphrey and Randy Reichert won their award for *On-the-Ground Excellence* in ecosystem stewardship, land and water restoration, public/partner cooperation, experience, dedication, initiative, and leadership.

Commenting on the presentations, Regional Forester Rick Cables said, "The evening of our honor awards is an opportunity to reflect on a year of accomplishments and recognize those who contribute greatly to the well-being of the National Forests and Grasslands. It is also an honor for me to shake the hands of people who contribute so much, and simply say thank you."

The ARP thanks them also!

Humphrey's International Field Trip

Twenty-four individuals from more than 20 countries and four continents visited the Canyon Lakes Ranger District (CLRD) on the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland February 25 to learn about natural resource management and the U.S. Forest Service.

Participants came as part of the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program and are professionals from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, the Middle East and Eurasia. This program is a ten-month, non-degree academic program and participants are selected based on their potential for leadership and their commitment to public service.

Those visiting the CLRD chose to attend the Natural Resources Management and the Environment Workshop based in Denver and hosted by the Institute of International Education-Rocky Mountain Regional Center. Approximately 160 fellowships are awarded annually. Fifteen major universities across the United States host the Humphrey Fellows during their 10-month stay.

Fellows learned about forest planning, fire and fuels management, rangeland management, water-related issues, and recreation and tourism from CLRD employees. The fellows asked many questions about how decisions are made and how we utilize volunteers. The Humphrey Fellows also had a chance to enjoy the beauty of the

mountains in Larimer County with a drive up the Poudre Canyon and a chilly hike on the Hewlett Gulch Trail.

"It's a real honor to host our international visitors," Canyon Lakes District Ranger Ellen Hodges said. "It's a great opportunity to exchange information and compare successes."

The fellows seemed most surprised that the U.S. Forest Service does not oversee activities on private forests. They were also intrigued by the number of volunteers dedicated to the land and all those who enjoy it. They also enjoyed the landscape, snapping more pictures than anyone could count to help them remember the experience.

This is the third time the district has worked with the Institute of International Education-Rocky Mountain Regional Center on international field trips. Previous visits included natural resource managers from Poland and India.



Above: A few words from CLRD's Kevin Cannon at Hewlett Gulch Trailhead before the hike.

Hotshots Help in Australia



Above: Local wildlife spotted while helping in Australia.

Kangaroos, koalas and wombats. Oh my! The Roosevelt Hotshots who traveled to Australia to help fight wildfires met all of these furry creatures, as well as many locals happy to have them there.

Chris Nicoletta, Mike Agnew and Tim Atchity traveled to Victoria, a southwestern state in Australia, in January to relieve local fire resources in battling the giant wildfires engulfing the country. Fortunately, rains came and lessened the severity of the fires as crews from the United States were arriving. The three from the Roosevelt Hotshots traveled with other firefighters from the United States, including four from the Alpine Hotshots based out of Rocky Mountain National Park. This

crew of 20 hotshot firefighters spent most of their time in Australia patrolling and repairing lines around the fire.

When they weren't working on the fires, the crew had an opportunity to enjoy the best Australia had to offer. They traveled to the coast to enjoy the beautiful beaches and spent time with the furry locals, visiting an animal sanctuary. For all, it was a great experience that they won't soon forget.



Above: Shawn Phillips (Alpine Hotshots), Mike Agnew (Roosevelt Hotshots) and another firefighter work on a wildfire in Australia.

Volunteers Spotlights

Volunteers wrap up Summit Lake Project



Above: Hauling rocks for the steps on the Chicago Creek Trail

the very popular fourteenner. Eroded social trails were rehabbed in the process.

The trail extension was built to "most difficult" trail standards and was beautifully constructed to blend well with the landscape. The trail was very difficult to build due to elevation, weather, short field season, hiking time in, small crew size due to wilderness regulations, exposure, steep and

Over the past two summers (2005 and 2006), the Colorado Fourteeners Initiative (CFI) has been constructing a 1.3 mile trail connecting the existing Chicago Lakes Trail to Summit Lake. The Chicago Lakes Trail is located within the Mount Evans Wilderness and provides a sustainable travel-route up

loose slopes, and moving large boulders, etc. A rock tram was used to transport large rocks from talus fields to be used in the trail tread.

A crew of 20 comprised of CFI paid staff, Americorps and Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (RMYC) rotated schedules, so work was conducted on the trail seven days a week. Weekend overnight volunteer projects were conducted on most weekends during mid-July and August to assist with the work. Volunteers donated 1,472 hours of work on the trail to complement the 7,480 hours of paid crew time. During the project 2,640 feet of trail maintenance was completed; 2,100 feet of social trails were rehabbed and restored; and 3,470 feet of new trail was constructed.

The trail is now 97 percent complete. The rest of the trail work, which includes some extensive rock retaining wall work, will be completed this year through weekend volunteer projects. The new portions of the trail will be signed this summer.

Stakeholder/Partners Highlights



Above: Eagle Wind Lift ceremony participants

Eagle Wind Chairlift & Terrain Dedicated

On March 20 members of the Northern Arapaho Tribe joined Winter Park Resort and the Sulphur Ranger District to dedicate the new Eagle Wind Chairlift and new trails with a traditional blessing ceremony. Winter Park Resort worked closely with the Northern Arapaho tribe to name

the new lift and trails in honor of several tribal elders who used the area throughout history. The Eagle Wind Chairlift provides access to seven trails: Left Hand, Little Raven, Sharp Nose, Medicine Man, Black Coal, Eagle Wind and Thunderbird.

ARP Foundation Update

The Foundation is continuing its important work in support of the programs and activities of the ARP. The Howard Alden Fund, contributed to by many friends, relatives and colleagues, received approximately \$8,000, and will be matched by the National Forest Foundation. We are working with the Canyon Lakes District on a project that will represent a couple of Howard's personal interests, fishing and conservation education. We are excited about including a youth corps program with this memorial project. Details should be available soon, as the spring will allow us some field and planning time.

We have been working on several other projects including reprinting the Junior Ranger program material for the Clear Creek District, finishing the Birding Trails on the Pawnee Grassland, sponsoring the Volunteers Day on the Boulder Ranger District, and working with the Sulphur Ranger District on a partnership with Winter Park Ski Area hotels and the residents and neighbors of Shadow Mountain Reservoir. We feel proud to be a part of these projects



Left: Boulder Ranger District honors its volunteers, with the help of the ARP Foundation.

and really energized about more in the future.

Wendy Campbell, our ever busy and involved Foundation Board Secretary, will be leaving the Board for a new job in Virginia. Wendy has been ever diligent about the business of the Board and has provided great leadership during our development and recent times of transition. She has been the source of great ideas, and an especially affective liaison with the Supervisor's Office in Fort Collins. We wish her well as she pursues her professional and personal dreams. *(submitted by Acting ARP Foundation President Steve Deitemeyer)*



Above: Phil Teeter

ARP Foundation Member Profile

Phil Teeter was one of the founding members of the ARP Foundation and has been very involved since it was just a concept. Phil also worked very closely with Howard Alden and the ARP in the development of the *Forests to Grassland* newsletter because of his interest in the ARP and his desire to help develop a strong relationship between stakeholders and the Forest Service.

Phil is very involved in natural resources. In addition to the ARP Foundation Phil is on the board of the Legacy Land Trust, a member of the Nature Conservancy's

Laramie Foothills Advisory Committee, a former member of the Colorado State Forest Advisory Committee and a trained mediator for the City of Fort Collins which conducts conflict resolution of resource issues. He is also a member and former chair of the Laramie County Agricultural Advisory Board, a forester in the private sector and previously owned the popular Mountain Shop in Fort Collins. Phil lives in rural Larimer County with his wife Annie and a collection of dogs, cats, chickens, horse, mule and goat. Hobbies include various forms of manual labor, including restoring 40 acres of land in North Park and woodcraft in the Swedish 'slojd' tradition. We greatly appreciate Phil's contributions to the ARP Foundation.

RMNA Trail Crew

For a second year in a row, Forrest Kelly will lead five students 18-21 years old as they work on trails within the Canyon Lakes Ranger District (CLRD) from late May to early August.

This crew is donated to the district through the Rocky Mountain Nature Association (RMNA). The crew is part of the American Conservation Corps. CLRD's crew is one of three working in the area this summer. Rocky Mountain National Park also has an RMNA crew and there is a new crew working on the Sulphur Ranger District this year.

The CLRD crew is based out of the Stub Creek Work Center and will spend this summer working primarily in the Rawah Wilderness and the Comanche Peaks Wilderness. They will

also do work on some of the district's other trails in the Stub Creek area.

The work this crew accomplishes is a great benefit for the district. A lot of excellent trail work gets done and the district only has to provide housing and vehicles. CLRD recreation staff members were happy with the safe work the crew accomplished last season and the fun the crew seemed to have.

"The best part about last year was the backpacking trips we took all of July," Kelly said.

Kelly is looking forward to being in the Rawah Wilderness this summer. He says there is a lot up there to keep the crew busy this year. And, the district has no doubt.

Points of View

As many of you may recall the Points of View Section was designed to help us start and maintain a dialog with stakeholders. We want to get people with different ideas and interests talking with each other and with the ARP. In past issues we have discussed drought, the Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership and target shooting. Contributions to this section are reviewed by a non-forest service points-of-view board. We have the pleasure of welcoming three new members to the board for a two-year term, Brett Bruyere, Katherine Timm and Cindy Christen. We hope you will help us put them to work right away by submitting a topic for discussion.

Brett Bruyere is an assistant professor in the Human Dimension of Natural Resources Department at Colorado State University. Specifically, his area of expertise is in environmental communication, a discipline that addresses conservation education, interpretation, public involvement and similar concepts. Prior to moving to Fort Collins in 1997, Bruyere worked in Seattle as a communication manager for a public affairs consulting firm. He earned his PhD from Colorado State University in 2002. His two favorite trail runs, Old Flowers Road and the Mummy Pass Trail, are located on the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests.

Katherine Timm brings to us more than 20 years of experience as a writer, editor, photographer, and public and community relations specialist. Before joining the Colorado State Forest Service in 1999, she served as a writer and editor and then manager of Outreach Communications and Technology at Colorado State University for 14 years. She currently is communications and media relations coordinator for the Colorado State Forest Service and Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership. Katherine holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism and a Master of Arts degree in mass communications, both from the University of Northern Colorado. She also attended the University of Wisconsin where she completed extensive coursework in natural resource management and geography.

When she's not working, Katherine enjoys spending time in the Roosevelt National Forest and Rocky Mountain National Park. Her idea of a perfect day is driving to the mountains on a cool, sunny day with the top down on the VW Beetle. Once there, she likes to hike, give the camera a good workout and find a nice rock in the middle of a stream to share with her husband and golden retriever.

Christen is an associate professor in the Department of Journalism and Technical Communication at Colorado State University. Christen's research focuses on resolving agency-interest group conflicts over managing natural

Points of View Guidelines:

Submissions must be factual and geared towards starting a dialog rather than stating a position or criticizing another individual or organization. We would like to hear what you are interested in, your likes, dislikes, major concerns and hopes for the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland. Contributions will only be accepted if the contributors provide their name, affiliation (if any), phone number and/or e-mail address so the board may contact them about their submission.

Submissions must be no longer than 300 words and can only be submitted electronically or in hard copy form (no disks) to: *Points of View Board: Arapaho & Roosevelt NF & Pawnee NG, 2150 Centre Avenue, Building E, Fort Collins, CO 80526 or e-mail: tjwilliams@fs.fed.us*

The non-U.S. Forest Service, POV board will ensure items submitted meet guidelines for the section, will edit for grammar and spelling, and work with the person(s) submitting articles if the articles need to be shortened. Submissions for the next issue of the *Forests to Grassland* are due: **July 16, 2007.**

resources. She is also interested in the effects of news coverage on public opinion about conflicts. Christen received an M.S. from Colorado State University and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, both focusing on environmental communication and conflict resolution. She also has 16 years of professional experience as a technical writer, marketing manager and public outreach specialist in the aerospace, defense and environmental industries.

We are excited about our new board and very thankful to Katherine Timm who has been acting solely as the Board since we said goodbye to Jamie Switzer, Deann McBride and Mike Hooker last summer when their terms expired.



Above: Firefighters ignite one of nine units on the Pawnee National Grassland. More than 4,500 acres were treated with prescribed fire (seven of the nine units) over a five day period to reduce fuel hazard and improve habitat for the Mountain Plover.